

January 16, 2001

U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

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Re: Docket No. 98P-0151/CP1

Dear FDA:

Please help us end the insidious downed animal trade. Since downed animals comprise a small percentage of animals slaughtered, and prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship, I urge you to help us eradicate their horrendous and unnecessary pain and suffering. Besides, animals who are too sick or injured to stand should not be even allowed to enter the human 'food' chain. In addition to this, it poses an increased risk for bacterial contamination.

There is even evidence that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy aka mad cow disease), a disease which has been linked to a fatal human illness (CJD or Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease). It is literally impossible to move downed animals humanely. They are callously pushed and shoved with tractors or dragged with chains-inhumane processes which cause injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions, to broken bones and torn ligaments. Since industry experts have estimated that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling, removal of downed animals will provide an incentive for the industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

Sincerely,

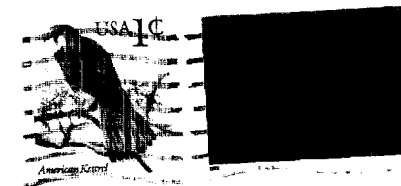

Dawn Pace

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Key Biscayne, FL. 33149

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Dawn M. Pace
1111 Crandon Blvd. B1205
Key Biscayne, FL. 33149



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